

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's attention to the above referenced application. The present amendments are being submitted with a request for continued examination (RCE).

The last substantive communication received from the U.S.P.T.O. for this application was the final Office Action dated June 29, 2004. On that same date, Applicants submitted a hardcopy information disclosure statement (IDS) and an electronic IDS (eIDS). In addition, on September 15, 2004, Applicants submitted another IDS and a cross reference to related applications with a response intended to put the application in condition for allowance. Applicants have not yet received confirmation that the Examiner has considered those IDSs/eIDS.

Claims 16, 46-55, and 57-85 are currently pending. Claims 46, 58, 71, and 84 are the pending independent claims. The present amendments do not narrow the claims. Instead, the present amendments remove unnecessary limitations from claim 57, and they change language in claims 46 and 58 that could be interpreted too narrowly.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendments and prompt allowance of the present application.

Applicants also respectfully request confirmation that the Examiner has considered the references identified in the following submissions: (1) the eIDS submitted on June 29, 2004; (2) the IDS submitted on June 29, 2004; and (3) the IDS submitted on September 15, 2004.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (512) 732-3927.

Respectfully submitted,

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